

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-28 are pending in this application. Claims 7-28 have been rejected. Claim 7 has been amended and no new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 7-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Bostrom Mats (EP 0 778 044 A2). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

EP 0 778 044 discloses a curved stylet which is structured to provide stiffening to a hollow electrical cable and to anchor a contact electrode (See column 1, lines 28-33). Thus the stylet is strong enough to impart its bend to the hollow cable or catheter (See column 2, line 58 through column 3, line 60 and column 4, line 57 through column 5, line 2). The stylet also imparts a bend to the stylet shell, as disclosed at column 6, lines 14-32.

The guidewire of amended claim 7 of the present invention does not have the structural firmness to alter the shape of the catheter or sheath in which it is enclosed. The claimed guidewire comprises an elongated resiliently flexible guidewire body having a distal end portion with a curved configuration adapted to assume a varied configuration as it passes through a bodily vessel or cavity. The resiliently flexible nature of the guidewire permits it to assume this varied configuration. The stylet disclosed in EP 0 778 044 does not vary its configuration based upon the catheter or bodily vessel in which it is placed. On the contrary, the catheter in which the stylet of EP 0 778 044 is placed varies its configuration to match the configuration of the stylet. Thus, EP 0 778 044 teaches away from the guidewire claimed in amended claim 7. For the foregoing reasons, independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-28 are patentable over EP 0 778 044.

Claim 7-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doyle et al. (EP 0 381 810). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The guidewire disclosed in EP 0 381 810 also has a structural strength that is different from the present invention. The curved portions of the guidewire of EP 0 381 810 are used to modify the direction of the catheter which rides over the guidewire (See page 4, lines 3-12). The curved guidewire of the present invention, on the other hand, will assume the shape of the catheter as opposed to controlling the direction of the catheter. Thus, EP 0 381 810 teaches away from the guidewire claimed in amended claim 7. For the foregoing reasons, independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-28 are patentable over EP 0 381 810.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully and sincerely requested.

If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-1329.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/23/04



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